Pasadena Citizen



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LPPD's Parker Honored as City's Manager of the Year

The city of La Porte has named Assistant Chief of Police Ron Parker as its Manager of the Year for 2010.

He will be publicly recognized at the City of La Porte's Council Meeting on Jan. 24 for his many contributions to the city. This event marks the second time Parker has received the Manager of the Year honor since he began his career with the city of La Porte's Police Department in 1984.

Assistant Chief Parker has served the community in a wide variety of capacities throughout his long tenure, including his current role where he serves as the senior manager over the Police Department's Support Services Division. His current responsibilities include oversight of the Department's Criminal Investigations, Street Crimes, Jail, Communications, Community Service, and Evidence Control Sections, as well as the management of in excess of \$170,000 in State and Federal Grants, and the maintenance of hundreds of individual Departmental policies and procedures.

As detailed in a letter of nomination submitted by the chief of police, Parker clearly distinguished himself in each of these roles throughout the last year. Most notable was his focus on the Department's newly-implemented Street Crime Division, which played a central role in the Department's proactive response to narcotic activity as well as illegal gambling in the community.

Largely through the efforts of the Street Crimes Unit, narcotic arrests within the La Porte Community were increased by 289 percent and more than \$50,000 in illegal proceeds were seized from narcotic traffickers during the 2010 fiscal year. Additionally, the unit managed to file several illegal gambling cases resulting in the shutdown of all three known game rooms located within the city of La Porte.

Of additional note, Parker also went above and beyond the call of duty as the Program Manager for the Department's Best Practices Recognition initiative. The Law Enforcement Recognition Program is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with over 150 Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices. Being "Recognized," means that the agency has

been inspected and certified by outside representatives of the Texas Police Chief's Association, who verify that the Department meets or exceeds all of the identified Best Practices for Texas law enforcement.

Of the more than 3,000 police departments in Texas, less than 40 have achieved "Recognized" status. Maintaining its status as a Best Practices Recognized agency requires much effort on the part of the Police Department, most particularly the Program Manager, who must spend countless hours monitoring critical departmental systems. 2010 was the first year the Department was subjected to an annual inspection. Thanks to the efforts of Assistant Chief Parker, the Department passed the inspection without a single deficiency being noted by auditors.

No less admirable, Parker has done an extraordinary job developing and managing the Police Department's various community service efforts, including a Citizens Police Academy, Volunteer Program, and Youth Explorer Post. During the 2010 cycle, 43 attendees graduated from two separate La Porte Police Department Citizens Police Academies.

Many of these graduates went on to join the Department's Volunteer Program, which is now 58 members strong. These volunteers provide a wide array of skilled and non-skilled services to the City of La Porte as a whole, including data entry, answering telephones, and staffing special events. At the close of 2010, La Porte Police Volunteers, under the direction of Assistant Chief Parker, donated a total of nearly 1000 hours of their time toward improving the quality of life within the La Porte Community. Assistant Chief Parker's Community Services Section also recruited, trained, and graduated the Department's first Youth Police Explorer Post class during 2010 with a second class scheduled for early 2011. Like the Department's adult volunteers, these enthusiastic youth work side-by-side with the City's Police Officers; serving the needs of the community, while learning valuable law enforcement skills in preparation for possible future careers in the law enforcement.

Assistant Chief Parker represents a precious asset for the La Porte Police Department and the City of La Porte as a whole. His leadership has inspired confidence and, as a result, his professional achievements are wide-ranging.

For more information on any of La Porte Police Department's Community Service operations, call 281-842-3171.